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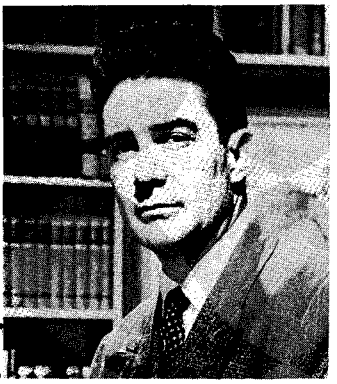

DAN SMOOT

LEGISLATIVE BATTLES, 1963

RULES COMMITTEE

On January 31, 1961, the House of Representatives, by a vote of 217-212, agreed to increase the membership of the House Rules Committee from 12 to 15. This "packing" of the Rules Committee was touted as something to break a conservative minority "blockade" against progressive legislation. Actually, it was a maneuver to eliminate free and full discussion of legislation so that the Kennedy program could be rammed through Congress without real debate or study.

Here are comments in *The New York Times,* February 2, 1961, by Arthur Krock, a liberal and an admirer of President Kennedy:

"The hair-breadth majority by which the House approved Speaker Rayburn's proposal to break the conservative blockade of legislation in the Rules Committee gave President Kennedy and the Speaker the power they sought. . . .

"The tabulation strongly indicates that, if threats and promises had not been lavishly employed by the Administration, the House would have voted down even its beloved Speaker to maintain the tradition of a Rules Committee independent of Administration control. . . ."

What were some of the "threats" and "promises"? Examine excerpts from three different issues of *Time* Magazine (February 3, 1961, p. 16; February 10, 1961, p. 14; February 17, 1961, p. 11):

". . . A freshman Congressman got an offer of a dam for his home district if he would vote with Rayburn."

". . . two Rayburn lieutenants were running down the list of doubtful members. On one: 'The General Services Administration ought to be able to get him.'

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"On another: 'The Air Force can take care of him.'

"A third? 'If you can get the Post Office to issue the special stamp for him, you've got him.'

"And a fourth? 'The United Mine Workers can get him.'

"And a fifth, 'Hell, if we can't get him, we might as well quit. Go talk to him.'

"A sixth, 'No, but I'll fix that bastard.' "

"Interior Secretary Stewart Udall was caught red-handed threatening cuts in big public projects in retribution for anti-Rayburn votes. Udall telephoned the White House to ask if he had done right in telling reporters he had just been 'playing by the rules of the game.' He got a delighted reply: 'You said just exactly what I wanted to say and couldn't.' "

The 1961 Rules Committee battle set the tone of the Kennedy crowd: they operate like gangsters, and will stop at nothing in an effort to force their will upon the Congress and the people of the United States.

The Rules Committee fight will, no doubt, be among the first major legislative battles of 1963. Kennedy will again insist on packing the Rules Committee with liberals who will support New Frontier proposals. But this year, he is likely to fail.

In the 87th Congress of 1961, there were 263 Democrats, 174 Republicans. In the 88th Congress which convenes in January, 1963, there will be 258 Democrats, 176 Republicans. The elections of 1962 eliminated that hairbreadth majority of 5 votes by which the Rules Committee was packed in 1961.

If — between now and the convening of Congress in January — every conservative voter in the United States will strongly urge his U. S. Representative to vote against packing the Rules Committee in 1963, this Kennedy maneuver can be defeated. If it is defeated, conservatives will have won a victory of major proportions — a victory that will give the conservative coalition in the House a fighting chance to defeat other Kennedy proposals for the next two years.

Socialized Medicine

In 1957, Aime Forand (Democrat — then a U. S. Representative from Rhode Island) introduced the Forand Bill, which would have done essentially what socialist planners have been trying to do ever since the Social Security Act was written in 1935: that is, add "medical benefits" to social security.

The Bill never got out of committee.

On January 26, 1960, Senator John F. Kennedy introduced in the Senate his own version of the Forand Bill — and made the "Forand approach" to medical care for the aged a major issue in his campaign for the Presidency.

All of the federal government's activities in the field of medicine (except an essential portion of the Veterans' and Armed Forces' programs) are unconstitutional, because they violate provisions of the Tenth Amendment — which prohibit the federal government from doing anything not authorized in the Constitution. The Constitution does not authorize the federal government to provide health or medical benefits for the people.

The political propaganda in support of federal medical care for the aged is built on the false premise that millions of Americans are suffering and dying from want of medical care, which they cannot afford and which only the federal government can provide. Even if it were true, this liberal argument, in itself, proves that governmental intervention in the field of medicine *harms* rather than *helps* the "health of our people." Note that the "national health picture" which liberal politicians weep about (after many years and many billions of tax dollars spent to improve the picture) is uglier than the "national health picture" of 1930, before governmental meddling amounted to much.

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Actually, private medicine and private insurance have provided better medical care for Americans than any other people have ever enjoyed.

Whenever government enters a field of private activity, that field becomes a political battleground.

But the primary reasons for the inevitable failure of governmental medicine can be found in the patients themselves. When people are forced to pay for something whether they want it or not, they are inclined to use as much of it as they can, in an effort to get their money's worth.

Malingerers are people who pretend to be sick in order to get sick-pay, social security benefits, free hospitalization, or a rest at government expense. Hypochondriacs are people who think they are sick, but are not. There are thousands of such people. No system has ever been devised for definitely identifying them, for weeding out the unnecessary or unreasonable or dishonest demands made upon the medical care services — no system, that is, except the one existing in a free society where a person must pay his own doctor bill or is controlled by provisions of an insurance policy which he himself has bought.

No compulsory health insurance program has found a means to discourage racketeers or petty complainers who make useless trips to the doctor and monopolize professional time that should be spent on people really needing care.

Republicans, as a national political party, presented none of these arguments against governmentalized medicine in 1960. They accepted the false propaganda about the need for federal intervention in the field of medicine and health insurance; they ignored the fact that such intervention is unconstitutional; and they opposed the Kennedy "social security" approach to medical care for the aged simply on the partisan grounds that it was not as good as the proposed Republican approach.

The Republican approach was presented with a Madison Avenue advertising slogan — "Medicare Program For The Aged." It was a complicated mess of federal grants-in-aid to state governments to help pay the cost of medical care for people in specified age groups, within specified income groups. "Medicare" became Nixon's health proposal. Kennedy stood for the "Forand" or "social security" approach; and, on this ground, the political battle of 1960, over health care for our senior citizens, was waged.

The American Medical Association, instead of condemning both schemes, as it should have (on ethical, professional, logical and constitutional grounds), supported Nixon's Medicare proposal, as a means of defeating Kennedy's Forand proposal. After many modifications and changes of name and congressional sponsors, the modern Republicans' Medicare Program for the Aged became the Kerr-Mills Bill of 1960.

On February 9, 1961, President Kennedy asked Congress for legislation essentially the same as the Forand Bill which Congress had rejected every year since 1957. On February 12, 1961, Representative Cecil R. King (Democrat, California) introduced a Bill in the House to implement the President's proposal. Senator Clinton P. Anderson (Democrat, New Mexico) introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

The King-Anderson Bill would have provided benefits to cover part of the cost of nursing and hospital services (under complicated specifications) for persons already eligible for old-age social security retirement benefits.[1]

Thus, the King-Anderson Bill had replaced the Forand Bill as a vehicle for expanding the social security system to include medical care. Aime Forand retired from Congress and set up a national pressure group called The National Council of Senior Citizens for Health Care Through Social Security.

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President Kennedy did not push the King-Anderson Bill in 1961, and Congress took no action on it. Kennedy was waiting for the 1962 election year, when he could again make the "health of our people" a major campaign issue.

In December, 1961, President Kennedy started converting the executive branch of government into a vast lobbying organization for the King-Anderson Bill.[2]

On February 27, 1962, the President formally requested Congress to enact the legislation; and, in May, he initiated the big public push.

On May 20, 1962, a mass meeting was held in Madison Square Garden, under the sponsorship of Aime Forand's National Council of Senior Citizens for Health Care Through Social Security (and of another similar organization called the Golden Ring Council of Senior Citizens). President Kennedy's speech to this meeting was nationally televised; and it served as a rallying call to mass gatherings held simultaneously in 32 other major cities, where Cabinet members and other federal officials also spoke in favor of the King-Anderson Bill.

Dr. Leonard W. Larson, President of American Medical Association, correctly said that "the U. S. Treasury is being looted" to promote the President's medical-political scheme.[3]

But it is evident that President Kennedy did not really want the King-Anderson Bill passed in 1962: He wanted the Bill defeated so that he could make its defeat an issue to be used against all conservatives in Congress. The evidence to support such a charge is implicit in the circumstances.

Throughout 1961 and 1962, the Kennedy Administration was ruthless in using the public purse and all other available pressures and weapons to force through Congress legislation that the President really wanted; but the Administration put none of these pressures on Congress in behalf of the King-Anderson Bill. The Bill never got out of committee in the House, and it was tabled by a parliamentary maneuver in the Senate.

The "health of our senior citizens" remained a political issue for the 1962 elections. And, medical care for the aged, within the social security system, will be one of Kennedy's major legislative proposals in 1963.

Lack of money is not the cause of major national health problems in the United States. In fact, many of our *national* health problems seem to result from the kind of living which our abundant prosperity has made possible.

But if money would solve our health problems, the perfect solution is obvious: repeal the income tax and compel the federal government to stop plundering Americans of their own money for gifts and loans and bribes to foreign governments and for a multitude of dangerous, wasteful, illegal, and immoral vote-buying domestic subsidy programs. That would leave individuals with enough money to buy whatever kind and quantity of insurance they happen to want. And it would leave enough wealth in every American community to provide adequate clinics and facilities and medicines for the helpless and destitute — of *all* ages — who do exist in every community and who are a community responsibility.

Constitutionalists should urge their representatives in Congress to reject all proposals for governmentalized medicine in the next session of Congress. Even if they are rejected, however, they will come up again and again in every session until the socialists get what they want: a comprehensive system of socialized medicine in the United States. The way to *stop* this relentless drive is to repeal the income tax amendment so that the Washington plunderers cannot get enough of our money to pay for their schemes.

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Farm Program

On March 16, 1961, President Kennedy, in a special farm message, urged Congress to adopt a communist-fascist type farm program devised by Dr. Willard W. Cochrane, a Minnesota economist.

Dr. Cochrane's scheme would have established a "supply-management" system in which committees of farmers, under the control of the Secretary of Agriculture (with Congress having only a negative veto vote if it disapproved), would regulate the production and income of farmers.[4]

Rejecting the Kennedy-Cochrane Bill, Congress, on August 3, 1961, passed the Agriculture Act of 1961, which extended all existing farm programs.

The Kennedy farm program of 1962 did not include the farmers' committees proposal of 1961, but it did include the proposal that Congress abandon its legislative function and grant the Secretary of Agriculture authority to do anything he likes (subject only to Congressional veto) under Cochrane's "supply-management" plan.

Kennedy put intense pressure on Congress to authorize his farm program in 1962. Administration officials even called leading businessmen throughout the nation, threatening to cancel *foreign aid* and *national defense* spending in their communities unless their representatives supported the President's farm program.[5]

After many complicated maneuvers in both Houses, Congress eventually passed a "compromise" Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 (final action by Senate on September 25, 1962; signed into law by President Kennedy on September 27, 1962).

Essentially, this Bill continued all existing farm programs, extending the proposed "supply-management" system only to wheat farming — rejecting the "supply-management" system in the dairy and feed grains programs.

It seems apparent that the Kennedy Administration will try, henceforth, to socialize American agriculture a step at a time. In 1963, Kennedy will no doubt ask for a farm bill that will extend the "supply-management" system to the dairy and feed grains programs. If he succeeds, he will resurrect Cochrane's communal system of managing all agriculture through controlled farmers' committees. If he ever gets that far, we will be very near a communized agricultural system in the United States.

Constitutionalists should, of course, urge their representatives to reject Kennedy's farm program in 1963. But they should do more than that. They should urge Congress to repeal all federal agricultural laws, in order to leave American farmers free to work their own land in their own way — without subsidies, and without controls.

Department of Urban Affairs

On April 18, 1961, President Kennedy asked Congress to create a new cabinet office — a Department of Urban Affairs and Housing. U. S. Representative Dante B. Fascell (Democrat, Florida) introduced in the House the Bill requested by the President. Senator Joseph Clark (Democrat, Pennsylvania) introduced it in the Senate.

On January 24, 1962, the House Rules Committee (the very Committee which Kennedy and Rayburn had managed to pack with liberals) rejected Kennedy's Urban Affairs Bill by a vote of 9 to 6. This action killed the Urban Affairs Bill in the House.

On January 30, 1962, President Kennedy sent his Urban Affairs proposal back to Congress as "Reorganization Plan No. 1 for 1962." This maneuver was an effort to by-pass the committee system in Congress and force both houses to vote on the Urban Affairs proposal.

Under the Reorganization Act of 1949, a President can reorganize any or all branches

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of the executive branch of government by merely sending his plan to Congress. If the Congress had not vetoed his plan (by a majority vote in both houses) within 60 days, the President's plan would have become law, without congressional action.

On February 20, 1962, the Senate rejected this Kennedy effort to get his Urban Affairs Department; and on February 21, 1962, the House adopted a resolution disapproving the President's Urban Affairs proposal.

At his press conference on February 21, 1962, President Kennedy said:

"We are going to have an Urban Department."

The Urban Affairs proposal was designed as a political appeal to city voters: to businessmen who want more tax money spent in their cities for housing, urban renewal, public works, and so on; to organized "minorities" who want more tax money for welfare and other forms of direct aid from Washington.

The following quotations are from the "Minority Views," expressed by Senators who opposed the Urban Affairs proposal during committee hearings in June, 1961:

"The introduction of legislation to create a Department of Urban Affairs and Housing carries this nation toward the dangerous policies of political spending which hit hard at self-reliance. There has been a growing tendency to begin programs which aggressively make larger and larger segments of our population dependent on the federal system, solely on the theory that local government cannot handle these special problems. . . .

"Every pressure group in the nation, looking for Federal funds, wants to have its representative crowding to the President's cabinet table, not to advise and guide him on the problems of government, but to push for special favors for special interests. . . .

"We are, more and more, moving toward a directed economy in this country. The theory of those who support more Federal intervention is that Washington knows best, works best, pays best; and all lesser segments of government must change — they must reshape their concepts of self-determination, and accept the blueprint of the planners.

"More than hopscotching over the State and County governments, this new Department can eventually nullify local city government. . . .

"There is a steady stream of pious protestations in Government that we need to cut down the deficit and the public debt; but we will, in one sweeping gesture create a goliath which will drain our Treasury and which will keep a watchful, police eye on every urban community and its citizens, planning, spending, directing, until citizens will not call city hall when streets need repair, or a water main needs replacing, but will notify their Congressman to contact the cabinet member handling such problems, seeking repairs and services."(6)

The Senators should have added that all of the federal government's present activities in the field of housing and urban affairs — and all of those that would have been transferred to, or created in, the new department — are unconstitutional, because there is no grant of power in our Constitution for such activities.

President Kennedy will probably push the Urban Affairs Department proposal again in 1963, as a means of getting more unconstitutional power and more tax money, which can be used to get more political support.

The people should urge Congress to resist.

Transportation

On April 5, 1962, President Kennedy proposed a new transportation plan, which, he said, would require less federal subsidy and fewer federal controls than now exist. He did propose to stop direct subsidies to feeder airlines — a transportation subsidy program which now costs about 80 million dollars a year. But he also proposed federal grants to cities (totaling 500 million dollars) for long-range mass-transit systems. Senator Frank Lausche (Democrat, Ohio) said that the President's transportation program would even-

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tually take billions of tax dollars out of the federal treasury.[7]

Senator Harrison A. Williams (Democrat, New Jersey) and Senator Prescott Bush (Republican, Connecticut) sponsored a Bill to authorize the President's transportation plan. Senator Lausche managed to kill the bill in the closing days of the 87th session. But it will no doubt be proposed again in the 88th session.

Prescott Bush (Republican sponsor of the transportation bill in 1962) retired from the Senate; but he is being replaced by Abraham Ribicoff (Democrat) who made a major campaign issue of the transportation problem.

In a speech at Stamford, Connecticut, on September 24, 1962, Ribicoff outlined his transportation program — which includes outright nationalization of key segments of the transportation industry, and federal domination (through massive subsidies and controls) of transportation facilities which are not confiscated and nationalized.[8]

Constitutionalists should urge Congress to reject the Kennedy-Williams-Ribicoff plans for the transportation industry. They should also urge Congress to eliminate all forms of federal subsidies and controls that presently exist in the industry. Transportation is one of the most competitive of industries. If all governmental intervention were eliminated, vigorous competition for transportation business in a free market would do more to solve our transportation problems than government can ever do.

Labor and Unemployment Benefits

Early in 1962, Congress passed the Manpower Development and Training Act — which President Kennedy praised as "perhaps the most significant legislation in the area of employment since the historic Employment Act of 1946."[9]

This law authorizes the Secretary of Labor to determine the number of Americans who should be working in any specific industry at any given time and place; and it authorizes allocation of tax money for training American youth in fields which the *Secretary of Labor* thinks they should be trained in.

A considerable portion of the New Frontier "labor and employment" program was *not* enacted in 1962, however.

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President Kennedy wants a Youth Conservation Corps (similar to the Roosevelt-Hopkins CCC of the 1930's). The Corps would consist, initially, of young men between the ages of 16 and 21, organized by the Secretary of Labor. Some of the young men would be taken from areas of "substantial unemployment" and employed on public works projects within federal lands. Others would be employed on "public service programs" in urban areas — working in schools, hospitals, libraries, public welfare agencies, settlement houses, and with the Boy Scouts.

Another New Frontier "labor and employment" proposal is an amendment to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit the employment of children, under 18 years of age, in work which the Secretary of Labor considers "particularly hazardous." This proposal (incorporated in Senate Bill 1123, in 1962, but not passed) would have prohibited boys from making extra money by mowing neighborhood lawns.(10)

Here, in two specific New Frontier proposals of 1962, we see one of the curious contradictions which can be found in the thinking of all socialists. The Youth Conservation Corps scheme would remove teenage boys from their homes and neighborhoods to work in federal labor camps; but the "Child Labor Act" would, among other things, prohibit teenage sons of migrant farm workers from working alongside their fathers in private industry — and would prohibit idle teenagers from developing a sense of thrift and industry by doing neighborhood yardwork.

The socialist utopia, which Kennedy and his friends are planning for Americans, has many points of similarity to the Siberian work-camp system of the Soviet Union.

Those features of the Kennedy plan not enacted in 1962 will surely be proposed again in 1963. Congress should reject *all* "labor and employment" proposals submitted by the Kennedy Administration.

FOOTNOTES

(1) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report,* January 5, 1962; and *U.S. News & World Report,* June 4, 1962
(2) *New York Times,* December 28, 1961
(3) Associated Press dispatch in *The Dallas Morning News,* May 20, 1962
(4) For a detailed discussion of the Kennedy-Cochrane Farm Bill, see this *Report,* "Communizing and Corrupting Agriculture," June 11, 1962.
(5) Article by Robert E. Baskin, *The Dallas Morning News,* June 12, 1962
(6) "Legislative Analysis: Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1962, To Create A Department of Urban Affairs and Housing," published by the American Enterprise Association, 1012 Fourteenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C., pp. 18-20
(7) *Congressional Record,* October 4, 1962, p. 20944
(8) *Congressional Record,* September 26, 1962, pp. A7105-7
(9) *Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report,* March 16, 1962, p. 423
(10) *Congressional Record,* October 4, 1962, p. 21179

WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Dan Smoot was born in Missouri. Reared in Texas, he attended SMU in Dallas, taking BA and MA degrees from that university in 1938 and 1940.

In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of American Civilization.

In 1942, he took leave of absence from Harvard in order to join the FBI. At the close of the war, he stayed in the FBI, rather than return to Harvard.

He worked as an FBI Agent in all parts of the nation, handling all kinds of assignments. But for three and a half years, he worked exclusively on communist investigations in the industrial midwest. For two years following that, he was on FBI headquarters staff in Washington, as an Administrative Assistant to J. Edgar Hoover.

After nine and a half years in the FBI, Smoot resigned to help start the Facts Forum movement in Dallas. As the radio and television commentator for Facts Forum, Smoot, for almost four years spoke to a national audience giving both sides of great controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his own independent program, in order to give only one side — the side that uses fundamental American principles as a yardstick for measuring all important issues.

If you believe that Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for those who want to think and talk and write on the side of freedom, you can help immensely by subscribing, and encouraging others to subscribe, to *The Dan Smoot Report.*

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